

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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Cont

1. An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
imaging means for performing one read-out operation to  
5 read out data of half of all pixels;  
incident-light quantity adjusting means for adjusting  
a quantity of light incident upon the imaging means; and  
drive/control means for driving/controlling the  
incident-light quantity adjusting means in such a manner as  
10 to block an incident light upon the imaging means while data  
of all the pixels is read out from the imaging means.

2. The image pickup apparatus according to claim 1  
further comprising:  
15 memory means for storing the data of all the pixels read  
out from the imaging means;  
field generating means for fetching pixel data every  
two adjacent lines out of the data of all the pixels stored  
in the memory means and then summing the thus fetched pixel  
20 data, thereby generating a first field and a second field  
which is shifted by one line from the first field; and  
picture generating means for generating one frame of  
still pictures based on data of pixels of the first field and  
the second field.

3. The image pickup apparatus according to claim 2  
further comprising display-format converting means for  
mutually converting a picture-display format between a first  
picture-display format and a second picture-display format.

4. The image pickup apparatus according to claim 2  
further comprising mixing means for mixing a first picture  
with a second picture.

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